

A2 6. (Amended) An actuating mechanism according to claim 4, wherein the locking mechanism further comprises release means for unlocking the actuating device from its actuated positions into its rest position.

7. (Amended) An actuating mechanism according to claim 4, wherein the actuating mechanism further comprises override means for returning the actuating device from its actuated position to its rest position in the event of the surgical tool becoming jammed.

8. (Amended) An actuating mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the actuating mechanism further comprises biasing means for biasing the actuating device in its rest position.

A3 14. (Amended) A locking mechanism according to claim 11, wherein the locking mechanism further comprises release means for releasing the interengaging means from its locked position into an unlocked position.

A4 17. (Amended) A surgical instrument comprising an handle, an elongate shaft extending from the handle and a surgical tool mounted on the shaft at a location remote from the handle, the instrument further comprising an actuating mechanism according to claim 1.

A5 20. (Amended) A surgical instrument according to claim 17, wherein the elongate shaft comprises an actuator rod slideably mounted, within an outer tube, the actuating device actuating the surgical tool by respective longitudinal movement between the actuator rod and the outer tube.

A6 23. (Amended) A surgical instrument comprising a handle, an elongate shaft extending from the handle and a surgical tool mounted on the shaft at a location remote from the handle, the instrument further comprising a locking mechanism according to claim 11.

26. (Amended) A surgical instrument according to claim 17, wherein the handle is elongate to enable it to be held in a pen-like grip.
27. (Amended) A surgical instrument according to claim 17, wherein the surgical tool comprises miniaturised forceps, clamps, scissors or diathermy hooks.

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